



**World Amateur Golfers Championship**

*The Race to* **México** 2020

**Playa del Carmen, Riviera Maya**

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## WAGC USA Tournament Player's Handbook

### World Amateur Golfers Championship (WAGC) and WAGC USA

WAGC is the world's largest and most prestigious amateur golf tournament open to male and female golfers with a handicap of 25 or better. Currently WAGC plays in over 40 countries.

WAGC US is the exclusive organization operating local, regional, and national events in the United States.

#### Membership with WAGC

WAGC membership begins entitles you to play in any of the local, regional and national events. **What sets WAGC apart from other amateur golf tours is that in the ability to compete nationally and win a position in Team USA to compete in the World Championship with other WAGC worldwide competitors.**

Membership in WAGC USA is open to all amateur golfers, male and female, with a handicap of 25 or better. The annual membership fee is \$189.00 and is good for one year from the date of enrollment.

Benefits include:

- WAGC USA member package with WAGC US branded memorabilia
- The right to play\* in all Majors and the National Championship
- The right to participate in Golf trips, organized by WAGC US.
- The right to compete\* for a spot in Team USA in the World Championship.

\*National and World events have qualifying requirements. Refer to Tournament Information for specific requirements.

Members will be placed in the local/regional tour group for their residential area. Should you have more than one residence, you have a right to choose which tour you'd like to belong to. Should you live in an area that doesn't have a local tour, you will be considered a "national" member until a Tournament Director has been recruited.

Registration for new membership is available on the website [www.WAGC.US](http://www.WAGC.US)

## Flights

WAGC USA players are assigned to one of five flights. Assignment to a flight, for a new member, is based on a player's most current tournament index. There is no separate division for seniors, men, or women. All ages and genders play against each other. The flights are:

<b>Flight</b>	<b>Course Handicap</b>
One	0 - 5.4
Two	5.5 - 10.4
Three	10.5 – 15.4
Four	15.5 – 20.4
Five	20.5 - 25.4

## Tournament Index

The WAGC USA tournament index is calculated using only tournament scores from WAGC USA events. A player must have five scores with WAGC USA to acquire a WAGC USA tournament index and the following guidelines and handicap controls are used to figure a player's index. For all WAGC USA events, WAGC USA reserves the right to utilize a player's lowest handicap index from all handicapping resources.

## Temporary WAGC USA Index

New members, members and nonmembers who have played in less than five rounds with WAGC USA will be given a temporary WAGC USA index based on their current USGA or State Association index. Since WAGC USA doesn't use slope to figure out CH, the player's CH will be the player's USGA index rounded up or down to the nearest whole number.

Players who do not have a current USGA index can submit their last five score cards, showing hole-by-hole scores and the tees they played from, and the local tournament director will assign a temporary WAGC USA index. New players with less than five WAGC USA tournament rounds may score less than net under par at local events, but the differential recorded will be used at the player's next WAGC USA event.

New players with less than five rounds with WAGC USA cannot record a round less than their differential at a Major or National Championship. If they do, their score for that day will be adjusted to reflect an index based on their new lowest score.

*Example:* Player has a USGA handicap of 13.7 giving him or her a CH of 14. Player shoots an adjusted gross score of 82 on a par 72 course with a tee rating of 70. Their original net score would be  $82 - 14 = 66$ , or six under par. Since they don't have a WAGC USA index, their differential for the round will be the player's adjusted index for the round and the net score will be recalculated ( $80 - 70 = 10$ ). With the new CH of 10 for the round instead of 14 his adjusted net score will be two under par instead of six. For next round his CH will be 10.

## Competing in WAGC

All tournaments are net, stroke play and are played in flights. There are several levels of competition:

### Local, Regional and PRE-National events

#### REQUIREMENTS

- WAGC Members and Non-members allowed, with valid handicap index.

#### TOURNAMENT INFO

- 18 holes of golf including carts
- Trophies for all winners
- Optional Side Games
- Players will earn points towards the National Player of the Year (for Team USA)

### Majors (National Events)

#### REQUIREMENTS

- WAGC Members and Non-members allowed, with valid handicap index.

#### TOURNAMENT INFO

- 36 holes of golf including carts
  - In the case of inclement weather, the event will be 'official' if all teams have completed 18 holes.
- Lunch for players
- Trophies for all Flight winners
- Each Overall Championship Winner (overall LOW NET) (Major/National Event), wins an exemption to the National Championship
- Optional Side Games

- Players will earn points towards the National Player of the Year (for Team USA)

## National Championship

### REQUIREMENTS

- Players must be a current Full Member (in good standing) of WAGC USA and have a valid handicap index.
- Must have played a minimum of three qualifying rounds

### TOURNAMENT INFO

- 54 holes of golf including carts
- Optional Side Games
- Trophies for all winners
- Awards and Banquet
  - Banquet Dinner
  - National Player of the Year
  - Winners of all flights – all win a spot in Team USA to compete at the World Championship
  - Breakfast of Champions for all winners

## World Amateur Golfers Championship

Players from each country compete at the world level in one of two divisions:

- In the **World Championship (WAGC)** as an earned position from the playing country. In this way, you are competing both as a member of the five-person team and as individuals in your respective flight with other country players.
- In the **Invitational Championship (WAGI)** as an earned or paid entry from the playing country.
  - The National of Merit award winner, from the National Championship, earns a spot on the Invitational Team, playing with the Team USA team captain to form the two-person team.
  - Paid entries (sponsors, VIP, etc.) can purchase entry for an Invitational team spot, being paired for two person teams.
  - Invitational Teams play both as two-person teams, and individually in their respective flight with other country players.

## REQUIREMENTS

- Championship Flight players - Position earned from National Championship to create Team USA playing as Team and individuals
- Invitational players –
  - Position earned by National Player of the Year points accumulated. Up to 3 spots for National Player of the Year winners
  - Sponsors, Team Captains, VIPs can pay to attend as Invitational Members at a predetermined cost
  - Invitational players compete as a team and individuals by flight

## TOURNAMENT INFO

- 72 holes including carts (and potentially caddies)
- Two days of practice rounds

## TEAM USA BENEFITS

- Roundtrip airfare in coach class to the World Final from players nearest Major US airport.
- Hotel accommodations based on double occupancy
- Most meals and some drinks
- 6 rounds of golf (2 practice rounds and 4 tournament rounds)
- All transfers in host country
- Miscellaneous entertainment as organized by host
- Team USA golf bag and uniforms
- Caddies or golf cart (gratuity is not included)
- Optional Side Games

## Tournament Distance

WAGC USA is following the guidelines set by WAGC Ltd. Since all play is net stroke play, there is no separate division for seniors, men, or women. All ages and genders play against each other.

## Majors (National Events)

Men will play from approximately 6,300 – 6,700 yards with no forced carry over 150 yards.

Ladies will play from approximately 5,000 – 5,700 yards with no forced carry over 100 yards. If that is not possible, a drop zone will be provided. Men vs Women: When possible, the women's tee will reflect the same rating as the men's. If it's not possible, the USGA handicap rule 3-5 will be in effect.



## National Championship

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## Optional Side Games

In each of the Local tour event, Majors, and the USA National Championship OPTIONAL side games will be available. Participation is NOT MANDATORY. In case of a shortened event due to weather, the side game money will be calculated for the number of stipulated rounds completed.

The side games are Quota, Skins, and Front 9/Back 9.

### **Quota**

Each golfer is given a quota to meet based on their Course Handicap. The number of quota of points is 36 minus the players Course Handicap.

All players whose point total for 18 holes meets or exceeds their quota win. If no one meets or exceeds his or her quota, the winners are the golfer who comes the closest. First will win 65% of the pot, and second will receive 35%.

**PAYOUTS-** If the pot is worth \$2000.00 and Player A has accumulated 2 points over quota, and Player B accumulated 1 point over quota, that would make 5 total points combined over quota  $(0, 1, 2 = 3) + (0, 1 = 2) = 5$ . With \$2000.00 in the pot divided by 5 points then each point would be worth \$400.00. Player A would be paid \$1200.00 and Player B would be paid \$800.00. Maximum points allowed over quota is 5.

### **WAGC US Quota**

Eagle = 8 points

Birdie = 4 points

Par = 2 points

Bogie = 1 point

Double bogie = 0 points

Triple Bogie or worse = 1 point

## **Points over Quota Breakdown**

Making quota 36 points = 1 quota point  
1 over quota 37 points = 2 quota points  
2 over quota 37 points = 3 quota points  
3 over quota 37 points = 4 quota points  
4 over quota 37 points = 5 quota points

Points are earned based on gross (not handicap adjusted) scores. (Your handicap is only used in calculating your quota.)

## **Skins**

The definition of a skin is a player with the best score on any hole (it is not birdie or better). Participants will compete in both a Giant Gross Skin and a Giant Net Skin Game.

## **Front 9/Back 9**

The player or players with the lowest net score on the front 9 wins and the player with the lowest net score on the back 9 wins. USGA 3-5 Rule (players competing from different tees) will be applied. The number of participants playing will determine the number of players paid out.

## **Front 9/Back 9**

0 – 19 players – 1st and all ties for each nine  
20 – 39 players – 1st, 2nd and all ties for each nine  
40 – 59 players – 1st, 2nd, 3rd and all ties for each nine

## **Policies**

### **Inclement Weather**

All efforts to complete all 18 holes for local events (two stipulated rounds of nine holes), 36 for majors (two stipulated rounds of 18 holes), and 54 for Nationals (three stipulated rounds of 18 holes) will be made.

If play has to be suspended due to inclement weather, the committee along with the host course will decide if play will continue.

If play must be canceled, the event will be considered official if the last pairing finished a minimum of 9 holes for local events, and 18 holes for majors and Nationals. If the last group has not finished as described, then the event will try to be rescheduled if possible. If the last group finishes more than described, but less than the total, the event will then become a 9-hole event for local and 18 for majors and Nationals.

## Tie Breakers

If possible, a net sudden death playoff will be used to break a tie. Based on handicaps, if a player received a stroke on a hole to be used for playoff, he will get a stroke on the playoff hole as well.

If a sudden death playoff is not an option, then the tie will be decided by the USGA recommended method of low net back nine. If still a tie, low net last 6, last 3, last two and last hole will be used.

## Liability waiver

By joining or electronically submitting a member application and entering and playing in a WAGC USA tournament (“tournament”), the participant understands and agrees that there are certain dangers involved with the participation in a golf tournament, including but not limited to being struck by lightning, getting hit by a golf club, suffering from heat exhaustion, heart attack or injury from uneven terrain, all of for which risks participant assumes and solely accepts, and waives all claims of injury to body or property against World Amateur Golfers Championship USA, Inc. Furthermore, the participant agrees that while on the premises of a WAGC USA tournament, the participant, and any guest, relative or anyone else affiliated with participant, shall be present at their own risk and that WAGC USA shall not be liable for any claims for injuries or damages whatsoever to person or property of the participant or related person arising out of or in connection with the participation in the tournament or presence at the tournament. Participant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless WAGC USA from all claims by or liability to participant or affiliated person.

## Pace of Play

Slow Play – Rule 6-7 states, in part: “The player shall play without undue delay and in accordance with any pace of play guidelines which may be laid down by the Tournament Committee.” The following pace of play guidelines and slow play penalties, except during match play competitions, have been adopted.

1. EACH PLAYER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR POLICING THEIR OWN GROUP
2. A group will be considered out of position if they fall more than 10 minutes behind the group in front of them.

3. Each group will have 2 hours and 15 minutes to finish 9 holes. or finish the 9th and 18th hole within 14 minutes of the group ahead them.
4. The group will receive a one stroke penalty (each player) if they finished 9 holes, more than 2 hours 15 minutes and are more than 14 minutes behind the group ahead of them. The group will receive an additional 2 stroke penalty if the group finishes both front and back 9's, in more than 2 hours and 15 minutes and are more than 14 minutes behind the group ahead of them.
5. To assist all groups, the following, will help the groups, keep in position:
  - Score cards will have the time in which you need to finish each hole
  - There MAY be staff on holes on 4, and 13 marking your group's time. If the group falls out of position from 11 minutes to 14 minutes, they will be given a yellow card. If the group is 15 minutes behind, they will be given a Red Card. PLEASE NOTE. These cards are friendly reminders by the staff on your current position to make you aware your group is in jeopardy of receiving a penalty. Also note that if you are in position after 6 holes and fall behind more than 14 minutes 7,8 or 9 and finish the nine more than 2 hours and 10 minutes your group will receive a penalty without any warnings. If a foursome is out of position, a tournament official may split the group into twosomes to help all four fall back into position to avoid penalty.
  - Holes 9 and 18 there will be a tournament official who will record your times and assess penalty to group if a group is in breach of the pace of play policy.
  - Pace of play penalty strokes are to be added to the 9th or 18th hole score depending on the hole the infraction occurred.
  - Time will be based on when the group enters the flag pin into the hole.

Other methods a local tour may use in monitoring groups during the round:

It is the responsibility of each player to be aware of his group's position on the golf course. Tournament officials ARE NOT required to warn groups prior to taking the following steps to speed up play.

1. **Putting the group on the clock:** After a group is put on the clock, each player will have 43 seconds to make his/her shot. If a player exceeds 43 seconds, that player will receive a one stroke penalty for the first offense, a two-stroke penalty for the second offense and disqualification for the third.
2. **Allow the group three holes to catch up:** If a group is out of position and is told so by a tournament official, the group will have three holes to catch up. After three holes, if the group is still out of position as defined above, each player in the group will receive a one-stroke penalty. The group will then have three more holes to play into position to avoid a second penalty of two additional strokes.

## Cancelations

Cancelation policies will vary from region to region. To be eligible for a full or partial refund, a player must withdraw prior to the entry deadline, otherwise there will not be a refund. View the local tours cancelation policy for details.

## Electronic Devices/Cell Phones

Electronic devices and cell phones are permitted for golf related purposes only, such as measuring distance (not slope), calling the tournament director for assistance, or viewing live leader boards. Phones must be on silent and players should not receive phone calls during a stipulated round unless for an emergency. If a player has been deemed to abuse the use of a cell phone, such as but not limited to taking personal calls, disrupting the other players, holding up play and using it to look up wind speed, coaching tips, or used for listening to music or coaching, that player will be issued a two-stroke penalty.

## Dress Code and Conduct Unbecoming

Collared shirts/mock turtlenecks are required. No jeans, denims, jogging outfits, or sweatpants are permitted. WAGC USA will not tolerate swearing, vulgar language, club throwing, alcohol abuse, lack of golfing etiquette, or other such behavior per the USGA® Rules of Golf. Furthermore, any actions taken, that is found to be detrimental to WAGC US, will result in tournament disqualification and/or suspension and/or expulsion from the organization.

## Solicitation

None of our members should be subject to any type of solicitation. No vendor, sponsor, or member have the right to solicit you in any shape or form without the prior written approval by WAGC USA. In order to keep our tour free from this, please report any type of solicitation to any of the above-mentioned corporations.

## Check In

### National Championship

All tour players must personally check in on site at least 60 minutes prior to their assigned tee times and be at their starting point at least 10 minutes prior to their assigned tee time. Failure to do so may result in a player forfeiting his/her tee time. If a player is not at the assigned starting point and ready to play at the assigned starting time, that player is in a breach of USGA Rule 6-3. If less than five minutes late, he/she will receive a two-stroke penalty. If more than five minutes late, that player is disqualified.

### Major Championships

All tour players must personally check in with the tournament director at least 30 minutes prior to the first assigned tee time and be at their starting point at least 10 minutes prior to their assigned tee time. Failure to do so may result in a player forfeiting his/her tee time. If a player is not at the assigned starting point and ready to play at the assigned starting time, that player is in a breach of USGA Rule 6-3. If less than five minutes late, he/she will receive a two-stroke penalty. If more than five minutes late, that player is disqualified.

## Spectators and Caddies

Spectators and caddies are welcome at all WAGC US tournaments provided the course allows spectators to walk the course and the spectators do not interfere with pace of play. Spectators and caddies are the responsibility of the player. Spectators must remain out of area of play and both spectators and caddies must practice proper golf etiquette at all times.

If there is an issue with the behavior of a spectator(s) or caddie(s),

the individual(s) will be asked to leave the premises. Per Rule 6.1 of the USGA® Rules of Golf, the player incurs the applicable penalty for any breach of a rule by his/her caddie, including unsportsmanlike conduct. Spectators and/or caddies may or may not be permitted to use a cart. It is the tour's policy that they must walk. However, if the course and the tournament director allow them to ride in a cart, it will be the tour director's discretion to allow it.

## Scoring

WAGC USA has live scoring capabilities and players may be asked for their current scores during a round. These scores are considered "unofficial".

After completion of the round, the players should bring their scorecards to the official scoring area together as a group, sign them and turn them in to the scoring volunteers. Once the player has turned in his or her scorecard, and left any boundary defining the scoring area, the scorecard is considered official. The scoring area is limited to players and their caddies. Other players are not allowed to gather in the scoring area while play is in progress.

## Tournament Director Participation

Tournament Directors (TD) are considered WAGC USA Members with a few limitations. With some limitations they may play in all the Majors, other local tour events, National Championship and the World Championship. TD cannot participate in the side games in events they run. A TD must play in events they run with field of 3 or less, it is encouraged the TD plays in events they run with fields of 4 to 11 players. TD cannot play in events they run, if the field has 12 or more players to run the event professionally.

**NOTE: Tournament Directors who violate any provision of this policy will be disqualified from the event and will not be eligible to play in the USA National Championship.**

## Policy Revisions

WAGC US reserves the right to revise the current Policies & Provisions or any other aspect of tour operations and benefits at its sole discretion without notice to the general public, membership or any other entity.

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